

October 6, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 5:38 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Steven M. DeVougas, Chair
Ann Wilson
Marisabel Cabrera
Fred Crouther
Nelson Soler

ABSENT: Commissioners: Kathryn A. Hein (Excused)
Angela McKenzie (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Rohlfing, Chief, Milwaukee Fire Department; and Carianne Yerkes, Assistant Chief, representing the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 4:48 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stats. to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over whom the Board has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to wit: performance evaluation of candidates for promotion to Deputy Chief, Fire and Detective, and pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (g) Wis. Stats. to confer with a representative of the City Attorney's Office who will render oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Board with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, to wit: Gomez disciplinary appeal.

The meeting was staffed by Executive Director MaryNell Regan. The Chair opened the meeting with Public Comment.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Vaun Mayes Bey, a resident of the Sherman Park area, asked why the release of the video concerning the death of Sylville Smith was not on the agenda and not being addressed.

Ms. Mary Watkins spoke about the removal of the memorial to Sylville Smith located at 44th Street and Auer Avenue. She called for the immediate release of the videos for both Jay Anderson and Sylville Smith.

Mr. Fred Royal of the Community Coalition for Quality Policing introduced a new concept called problem oriented policing that has had positive results. The police engage the community and look for problems that are at the core of criminal behavior and develop solutions with the community to resolve those issues, and improved police community relations is one of the results. He distributed a report to the Board that gave more information on the success of this process in Cincinnati over the last 10 years and indicated his willingness to discuss it with the Board at a later meeting. He also submitted a copy of a report that says when body cameras are worn and used without the discretion of the police, there is a better outcome and a more professional interaction.

Mr. Chris Ahmuty of the ACLU said the Board adopted an amendment to Standard Operating Procedure 747 on body worn cameras at their July 14, 2016 meeting. At that meeting only a quorum of commissioners was present. He suggested this deserves the attention of the entire Board and asked them to revisit it.

Ms. Cynthia Greenwood also stated the community needs to see the video, otherwise why did we get cameras? She believes that the video is being hidden from the community, which was more than patient with the Dontre Hamilton incident. Chief Flynn has threatened to arrest the public if they take to the streets again. Other cities are releasing videos, why can't Milwaukee? She encouraged the Board to use its influence to get the video released and have criminal charges issued. She is going to continue coming here to ask that the video be released now, and she prays that District Attorney Chisholm does his job and charges the officer.

Mr. Khalil Coleman stated the FPC has a long history of voices being presented to this committee about police community relations (PCR). He asked that the Board use its authority to help the community get better PCR. The FPC is the only one who can make decisions affecting the Chief and officers to get some type of accountability. He asked that the Board put Sylville Smith on the agenda to let the family and people from the community come and say what they would like to see done and offer solutions.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Director presented the following items for approval on the Consent Agenda. (Detailed information concerning the items can be found under the appropriate regular meeting agenda heading in the minutes.)

- A. Appointments:
1. Custodial Worker II
 2. Police Services Specialist (Half-Time)
 3. School Crossing Guard (Regular and Substitute) (5 positions)

There being no objections, all of the items were approved for adoption.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) The following promotions, as presented by Chief Mark Rohlfing, were approved by the Board:

TO DEPUTY CHIEF, FIRE, from Battalion Chief, Fire, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective October 9, 2016:

KEVIN D. HAFEMANN and JAMES H. LEY

- b) The Director returned to the Board a request from the Fire Department to study two positions of Network Coordinator Associate for appropriate job classification and pay level. In a report dated September 30, 2016, Maria Monteagudo, Director of Employee Relations, recommends that in the Positions Ordinance, under Fire Department, Support Services Decision Unit, Technical Services/Dispatch Division, delete two positions of "Network Coordinator Associate" and add two positions of "IT Support Specialist - Senior." Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

4. EXAMINATIONS:

- a) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Building Maintenance Supervisor II in the Police Department, consisting of six names. Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner Soler. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) The Director presented for approval an examination announcement bulletin for the position of Crime Analyst in the Police Department. Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the bulletin, seconded by Commissioner Soler. The motion carried unanimously.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotion, as presented by Chief Edward Flynn, was approved by the Board:

TO DETECTIVE, on a waiver basis, from eligible list established December 17, 2015, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screening, effective November 6, 2016:

#20 – KENT U. GORDON.

b) The following appointments, as presented by Chief Flynn, were approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda, Items A-1 thru 3:

TO CUSTODIAL WORKER II, from Department of Employee Relations eligible list, contingent upon successful completion of a medical exam and drug screen, effective October 10, 2016:

THOMAS S. VOLLMER.

TO POLICE SERVICES SPECIALIST (half-time), effective October 10, 2016:

ALFONSO SALINAS.

TO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD, with effective dates:

BOBBIE A. DUNN (9/12/16), FRANK M. NASH (8/15/16), and ROXANNE J. ORLANDO (8/30/16).

TO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD (SUBSTITUTE), with effective dates:

BEVERLY A. MARKS-MAGEE (8/5/16) and MICHAEL W. WILLIAMS (8/16/16).

c) The Director presented three letters dated September 28, 2016, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary periods of Police Lieutenants Rebecca L. Babich, Kristin K. Felsman and James A. Olson each be extended for a period of 30 days, until November 10, 2016, due to periods of absence during the probationary period. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of all three requests, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

d) The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2016, from Chief Flynn, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Detective Andrew W. Holzem be extended for a period of 113 days until February 1, 2017, due to a military leave of absence. Commissioner Soler moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

e) The Director presented Personnel Order 2016-128 wherein Chief Flynn rescinds Personnel Order 2015-29 terminating Police Alarm Operator Herman Suarez for non-disciplinary reasons. Commissioner Crouther moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Cabrera. The motion carried unanimously.

f) The Director presented a letter dated September 23, 2016, from Chief Flynn, wherein he presents a request for reappointment to the position of Police Officer from Christopher T. Moore. Mr. Moore was appointed on July 26, 2010, and resigned in good standing on May 1, 2016. The letter states his reasons for requesting reappointment. Chief Flynn recommends that Mr. Moore be reappointed, contingent upon successful completion of a medical examination and drug screen, effective October 10, 2016. Commissioner Crouther moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

g) The Director presented Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 117 – Interactions with Transgender Individuals. Assistant Chief Yerkes discussed how the department had worked with the LGBT community to develop the SOP. The ACLU was also asked to review the draft policy. Once the policy is adopted, a video presentation will be shown to all officers to familiarize them with the policy. Commissioner Cabrera moved to approve the SOP, seconded by Commissioner Crouther. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Crouther moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cabrera. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 6:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryNeil Regan
Executive Director

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